Rev. Amos A. Phelps
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Boston

get hold of any handle to the matter. And in the mean time I am as well satisfied with my field of labor as I ever was or expect to be any where. Could I see the way clear to do something for Congregationalism, I should like that. And the pertinacious adherence of so many to a system that is only adapted to kill & crush the Lord's servants, & the late developments at Haverhill in brother Martin's case have quite sickened me of any present effort. So I let the world wag a little longer, while I do what my hand findeth to do with all my might. I must close. Perhaps I have not made a sentence intelligible, only this, that I am as ever your brother in the Lord

Joshua Leavitt

of _practicability_ – Still nothing hitherto proposed has done. Neither does your proposal for a convention. My mind sees great difficulties. It seems as if there was a great want of _cement_ in the church as well as in commerce & politics. The brethren you name are all worthy, but it would be impracticable to _unite_ them in a plan of action, unless there was some master mind that could lead them to the practical adoption of measures so important as to overmaster their attachment for their several theories. Green's Coleridgeism, Beman's Presbyterianism Finney's Perfectionism, Hawes' conservatism, Osgood's Old-Measure-ism, Shepard's Scholar-ism, &c. &c. all present insurmountable ~~results~~ obstacles to any harmonious result of _such_ a convention. If you or any one has a practical measure to propose, of such a character as I have specified, let a convention be called. But at present I do not

New York, Aug. 13. 1838.

Dear Brother Phelps, Joshua Leavitt

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I have received your letter of the 8th with considerable interest. I am not in the same position with yourself - exactly - as you might have been led to infer from Br. Sunderland. When the Oberlin folks made their application, coming from such a quarter, I could do no less than take it into serious consideration & then I laid it before our Committee; of course I endeavored to lay it before them with the strength that it came from the Oberlin rather than with that which it had in my own mind. I thought seriously of it, but never with any strong feeling or expectation that I should accept. On the other hand, I felt strongly satisfied that I was doing a good work here, & as great as my faculties and other qualities could compass, and as I thought a work for which I was as well qualified ~~f~~ as for any thing. I have no thought of leaving my present position unless where I think I see a certainty of doing something, for any other unless it shall also hold out a strong appearance